



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

February 4, 2013

Colonel R. Mark Toy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7007 2560 0001 7889 6545

PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AT THE RECENTLY DISTURBED SEPULVEDA BASIN SITE LOCATED WITHIN THE LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED

Dear Colonel Toy:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is looking forward to receiving the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACOE) timely response to its California Water Code section 13267 Order to Submit Information on February 11, 2013.

In its current condition, the Sepulveda Basin site poses a threat to the quality of waters of the United States. The USACOE's unauthorized vegetation removal project left easily mobilized sediment in locations along the banks of Haskell Creek where it threatens to discharge to waters of the United States during the next medium to major storm event. Additionally, large quantities of vegetative debris remain in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve and in the Los Angeles River channel, areas that are known to flood and carry high volume flows downstream during storm events. The Regional Board is concerned about potential discharges of sediment, sediment laden runoff, and debris to Haskell Creek and the Los Angeles River causing further water quality impacts to this sensitive watershed.


The Regional Board strongly encourages the USACOE to engage in proactive clean up measures in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve upland areas to ensure that the onsite sediment and debris are not discharged to waters of the United States during a storm event. We also strongly encourage the USACOE to implement best management practices (BMPs) to stabilize the barren banks and upland areas around Haskell Creek to control erosion and prevent sediment and debris from entering waters of the United States. Such BMPs may include: trash removal and proper disposal, sweeping or cleaning of adjacent concrete areas, and implementing erosion control BMPs developed for construction sites. Furthermore, the areas with *Arundo donax* at the west confluence of the Burbank Boulevard overpass and the Los Angeles River should be stabilized in order to reduce its potential to spread downstream.

Finally, if the USACOE engages in cleanup activities in the Los Angeles River and/or Haskell Creek, the USACOE must contact the Regional Board and obtain state water quality certification prior to working, or implementing BMPs, in the Los Angeles River and/or Haskell Creek. We are

aware of the urgency of the situation and are available to meet with your staff on site and prioritize preparation and processing of permits you may need to the maximum extent practicable.

Protection of water quality in Haskell Creek and the Los Angeles River is of the utmost concern to the Regional Board. The Regional Board encourages the USACOE to take proactive measures at the Site in order to prevent further water quality impacts during storm or flood events.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: via US Mail

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Colonel R. Mark Toy

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